

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8215

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02425

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: CENTO, EAID

SUBJECT: NEW AREAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN CENTO

REF: LONDON 13542

FOLLOWING IS BRITISH DRAFT CONTRIBUTION ON THIS SUBJECT.
SINCE REPLIES ARE DUE BY MARCH 6, FCO WOULD APPRECIATE
HAVING OUR COMMENTS BY MARCH 1 IF POSSIBLE. THEY
APOLOGIZE FOR THE SHORTNESS OF NOTICE. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

"1. THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED THE
SECRETARY GENERAL'S LETTER OF 31 MAY 1973 AND THE
SECRETARIAT PAPER OF 30 MAY 1973 WHICH WAS ENCLOSED.
A REPLY HAS BEEN DELAYED AS THE UK GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE
BEEN INTERESTED TO SEE THE RESPONSE FROM THE REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS BEFORE REPLYING; THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE
ACCORDINGLY OFFERED AS AN INITIAL RESPONSE.

"2. WE AGREE WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THE FIRST
GENERATION OF LARGE-SCALE COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS
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ENDORSED BY CENTO ARE IN PRACTICE ALMOST COMPLETED AND

THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE FRESH CONSIDERATION TO THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF CENTO. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION WITHIN RCD BETWEEN THE THREE REGIONAL COUNTRIES WHICH IS NOW SUCH THAT THAT ORGANISATION MAY WELL BE BEST PLACED TO IDENTIFY AND AGREE POSSIBLE PROJECTS WITH GOOD POTENTIAL REGIONAL BENEFITS AND TO REFER TO THE NON-REGIONAL MEMBERS OF CENTO FOR ANY EXPERTISE NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY FOR ASSISTANCE IN FINAL EVALUATION OR IMPLEMENTATION. THE UK GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PART IS VERY READY TO ASSIST WITH THE PROVISION OF ANY EXPERTISE THAT MAY BE REQUESTED. IT REMAINS OUR VIEW HOWEVER THAT IT IS PREFERABLE FOR AREAS OF COOPERATION AND CONSEQUENT PROJECTS TO BE IDENTIFIED AND AGREED AT LEAST IN GENERAL TERMS BY THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS BEFORE OUTSIDE EXPERTISE IS SOUGHT.

"3. THE UK GOVERNMENT IS THUS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE SECRETARIAT MEMORANDUM WHICH EMPHASISES THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR BENEFITS THAT THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES CAN OBTAIN FROM THE CENTO ECONOMIC PROGRAMME IS ACCESS TO THE TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL SKILLS OF THE NON-REGIONAL COUNTRIES. WE THINK THAT THE VALUE OF THE ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN UNDERESTIMATED. WE PROPOSE THAT, PROVIDED THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AGREE AND ARE PREPARED TO GIVE THE PRACTICAL SUPPORT INVOLVED, WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT ON THE EXPANSION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF EXPERTISE AND ADVICE BOTH THROUGH THE NORMAL PROGRAMME OF SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES AND BY INCREASING THE LIAISON WITH ORGANISATIONS IN THE NON-REGIONAL COUNTRIES'

"4. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS OF HIGH-LEVEL PLANNERS IN PARTICULAR FIELDS SUCH AS IN-

DUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND HEALTH. WE CONSIDER THAT AT LEAST IN THE FIRST PLACE, MEETINGS COVERING A LIMITED FIELD WOULD BE MORE IMMEDIATELY PRODUCTIVE THAN MEETINGS ADDRESSED TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMIES AS A WHOLE. WE SHOULD HOWEVER BE READY TO FALL IN WITH THE WISHES
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OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THIS MATTER. WE REAFFIRM OUR READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION BOTH IN PURSUANCE OF PROPOSALS THAT ARE ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY CENTO, SUCH AS OUR OFFER TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND IN RESPONSE TO NEW SUGGESTIONS THAT MAY BE PUT FORWARD FOR COOPERATION IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. IN PARTICULAR WE SHALL BE VERY HAPPY TO ASSIST IN THE

PROPOSAL FOR TRAINING IN INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT IF THIS
IS ENDORSED BY THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. SIMILARLY
IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD WE WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO
ASSISTANCE WITH ANY REGIONAL PROJECT WHICH THE REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS CAN IDENTIFY."

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